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THE
State Gamesters ;

OR, THE

Old Cards new Pack'd and Shuff'd.

18. Octob. 1714.

A Set of Gamesters all together met,
Some came to Play, and others came to Bett.
The Cards produc'd, they first for Dealing Cut,
Some play'd at *Noddy*, and the rest at *Putt*.

The *Noddy* Gamesters having drunk to hard,
Cou'd not distinguish *Knave* from other Card ;
But like true Sots, being eager of the Cup,
They cou'd not tell the Game when it was up.
Instead of minding how the Cards were laid,
Fell all asleep, while 'toher Gamesters play'd ;
But being wak'd to pay their Drunken Scores,
They chang'd their *Noddy* Game into *All-Fours* :
And then with one Consent new Cards they Buy,
And vow'd they'd play the strict Severity.
A Cunning Blade that knew each Card i'th Pack,
And gain'd Experience in the Art that's Black ;
(Says he) I'll fairly lay the Cards all down,
And hold a *Wager* of an even *CROWN*,
That we will have both *Lowest*, *Jack*, and *Game*,
Tho' you have Shuff'd them and Cut the same.
With that the Cards being Dealt about agen,
Instead of *Jack*, comes up a single *Ten* ;

And

And *Clubs* were Trumps, at which the *flanders* by,
 Cry'd 'twas foul Play, and gave this Reason why?
 Because the *King o' th' Hearts*, which should have come,
 Was put below the *Knave*, by th' Dealers Thumb.
 So quick and nimble was that Card convey'd,
 None knew how it was Dealt, nor how 'twas Play'd.
 But yet the other Gamesters hop'd that *Jack*
 Was not in Hand, but still among the Pack.
 Yet some who fear'd the worst were in the Dumps,
 Least *Jack* next-time, he should be turn'd up Trumps.
 (Says one) Chearup, I've Cards I will not Name,
 Tho' they are *Lowest*, we'll secure the *Game* :
 And if we Lose it, then we are to blame.
 With that he play'd the *Queen*, a Card of Honour,
 But ~~the other~~ threw the *Knave* of Trumps upon her ;
 When those that Betted saw the *Queen* was lost,
 They knew which way the *Game* was riding Post.
 (Yet like true Voters at a new Election,
 Who scorn to yield it up by bare Inspection ;
 Call for a Poll, and so by telling Noses,
 Know which side wins, and which side 'tis that loses.)
 So these high Gamesters, they would tell for *Game*,
 For Chalks on both sides are the very same.
 But seeing them produce two *Knaves* and *Jack*,
 Concluded they had all the *Knaves* i'th Pack.
 Alas! (say they) what good doth *Highest* do,
 When they have got both *Jack* and *Lowest* too?
 Besides we now must yield our *Game* is gone,
 For you have got three *Knaves* to our one ;
 Which proves the Proverb true, just to a Letter,
 Most *Knaves* in Number makes Men's Luck the better.
 We'll *Game* no more till we have learn'd more Skill,
Knaves will be *Knaves*, let Men play ne'er so well.
 But we this Resolution have laid down,
 Never to play so high as for a C R O W N .